

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title is amended, claims 1 and 7 are amended and new claim 18 is added. Claims 15-17 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the June 20 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the amendments and the following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention. The title is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 7 due to informalities. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to obviate this objection.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 0031714 (PCT/JP99/06642) to Murade in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,014 to Ohtani et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,160,297 to Shimizu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Murade discloses data lines (6a), first junction electrodes (8b) and second junction electrodes (15) including nitride film (81). Neither the data lines nor first junction electrodes include a nitride film. Instead, the second dielectric film (81) merely covers second junction electrode (15). See, e.g., Fig. 9. Thus, because neither the data line or the first junction electrode in Murade, include a nitride film, Murade cannot achieve the advantages of claim 1, blocking water penetration as described in paragraph [0095] of the specification.

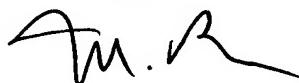
Furthermore, in Murade, neither the contact hole (15) nor the second contact hole (8b) are made from the same film as the data lines (6a) as in claim 1 and new claim 18. See, e.g., Fig. 9.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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